THE MEDICAL NEWS LIBRARY. AND

OCTOBER, 1849. VOL. VII. No. 82.

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CHOLERA.

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Philadelphia.—The cholera has nearly disappeared from this city, and the general mortality has diminished to about the ordinary rate.

The total mortality for the week ending - 921 from cholore 19

Sept.	1	was	231	irom choiera	10	
44	8	44	214	"	16	
66	15	4.6	207	16	4	
44	22	66	183	"	6	
44	29	44	159	44	4	

New York .- The cholera steadily decreases in this city. The total mortality for the week ending

Sept.	1	was	687	from cholera	171
44			520		94
**	15	44	378	4.6	36
66	22	**	366	**	21
44	99		210	44	11

Boston.—In this city also the cholera is decreasing. The total mortality for the week ending

Sept.	1	was	236	from cholera	94	
44		4.6			64	
"	15	46	160	44	42	
64	99	66	160	44	0.3	

Cincinnati.-Annexed we give the Report of the Board of Health, of the mortality in the city for the four months ending the 30th of August. The number is startling,-6459! Of these, 4114 were of cholera! About three fourths of the whole interments were in the foreign cemeteries and in Potter's Field.

The following statement has been prepared by a committee of the Board of Health, and now presented to the public as an authentic record of the mortality in Cincinnati, from May 1st to August 30th, 1849. No pains has been spared to ensure its correctness. Where no list of the interments in any cemetery had been kept by the sexton, the number of dead have been ascertained by counting the graves; and in the separation of the cases of cholera from other diseases, where there was no evidence of the particular disease furnished to the sextons, the number has been stated from the best data that could be procured. If the population of Cincinnati did not exceed, during the months of May, June, July, and August, ninety thousand, and it is believed it did not, the mortality was equal to one in fifteen of the whole number of the actual residents of our city.

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Vol. VII.-10

Report of Interments in the following Cemeteries from May 1st to August 30th, 1849.

	Cholera.	Other diseases.
St. Joseph's, Irish	460	284
St. Joseph's, German	730	369
St. Peter's, Lick Run	913	335
Wesleyan Cemetery, Mill		
Creek	270	235
Methodist Protestant	115	86
German Protestant, Readin	ng	
Pike	206	79
German Protestant, Walnu	ıt	
Hills	258	126
Spring Grove Cemetery	36	144
Episcopal, in the city	42	18
Presbyterian, in the city	50	26
Baptist, Catherine street	77	78
Methodist, Catherine stree	t 59	38
Potter's Field	408	258
Friends	8	4
Hebrew	43	13
German Prot., St. Peter's,		
W. Row	286	140
American Association,		
Colored,	72	73
Walnut Hills Cemetery	55	33
Warsaw	25	5
3	4114	2345
		4114
Total		6459

Cholera in England.—The cholera is on the increase in England, and is committing great ravages there. The deaths from cholera in London, for the

Week e	nding Ju	ine 9	was 32
44	44	16	42
**	4.6	23	49
	44	30	124
4.6	J	uly 7	152
4.6	4.4	14	339
* 4 4	4.6	21	678
**	**	28	783
**	A	ug. 4	926
4.6	4.6	11	823
46		18	1005
44	4.6	25	1276
44	" Se	pt. 8	2026

The following is the daily summary of the progress of the disease in Great Britain.

August 16	1	
	Attacks.	Deaths
In London and vicinity	358	157
In England and Wales	408	192
In Scotland	27	15
Total August 17.	793	394
In London and vicinity		100
In England and Wales	385	179
In Scotland	313	130
in Scotland	51	27
Total	749	336
August 18.		
In London and vicinity	239	118
In England and Wales	446	204
In Scotland	38	18
Total	723	340
August 19 and		010
In London and vicinity	494	220
In England and Wales	476	224
In Scotland	136	47
Total	1106	491
August 21.		491
In London and vicinity	322	186
In England and Wales	331	172
In Scotland		
in Scotland	20	19
Total	673	377
August 22.		
In London and vicinity	404	179
In England and Wales	274	105
In Scotland	23	24
Total	701	308
Deaths from Cholera throug	hout Gre	
tain for the week ending		
In I and an and airining		1005

July 2000 Contraction	9	-
In London and vicinity	2400	1005
In England and Wales	2608	1132
In Scotland	267	142
		_
Total	5275	2272
August 23	3.	
9	Attacks.	Deaths
In London and vicinity	400	176
In England and Wales	396	187
In Scotland	103	45
		_
Total	899	408
August 94		

In London and vicinity

In England and Wales

Total

In Scotland

50 29 police 822 355 exten

175

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August 25.		
In London and vicinity	404	169
In England and Wales	540	248
In Scotland	50	29
111	_	
Total	994	446
August 26 and	27.	
In London and vicinity	669	336
In England and Wales	463	221
In Scotland	83	34
		_
Total	1215	591
August 28.		
In London and vicinity	415	183
In England and Wales	516	197
In Scotland	32	21
Total	963	401
August 29.		
In London and vicinity	408	250
In England and Wales	505	265
In Scotland	25	12
Total	998	527

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Bri-

The relative progress of this terrible pestilence throughout England and Wales during the same week, may be estimated from the subjoined table :-

Deaths from Cholera throughout Great Bri-

tuin for the week endi	Attacks.	
In London and vicinity	2407	1103
In England and Wales	2406	1089
In Scotland	355	176
Total	5168	2368

Cholera in Paris.-We perceive by the French medical papers that the epidemic is again on the increase. The civil hospitals and asylums have published the following returns: August 13th, 43 cases and 17 deaths; August 14th, 50 cases and 16 deaths; August 15th, 54 cases and 31 deaths; August 16th, 56 cases, and 29 deaths. Three} Midi (venereal patients) and they all died in { question of the preventive virtues of syphilis; or mercury. The mortality in town has? 12th of August, the deaths have respectively Medicine have received from the prefect of police the tables of mortality in Paris, for

shall give them to our readers, as these returns may prove useful in statistical researches. These tables are likewise valuable, as showing that the mortality hitherto published has been below the reality.

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Thus we see that, in the first six months of 1849, there died in Paris 33,274 persons, among whom nearly half-viz., 15,677, fell victims to the cholera, and out of these 15,677 deaths, 9019, or almost two-thirds, patients were attacked at the Hôpital du took place in private life. Finally, it will be remarked, that out of these 15,677 deaths avery short time, setting at rest the debated there were 7740 men and 7937 women, showing that the female sex, as happened in 1832, suffered somewhat more from cholera likewise increased. From the 9th to the than the male sex. At first view, the considerable mortality of the Salpétrière might been 17, 36, 27, and 28. The Academy of seem to account for this circumstance; but it is, however, not the case; for it will be seen by the table, that in civil and military the first six months of 1849. Though they hospitals 3498 men and 3160 women died of extend no further than the 30th of June, we cholera, whilst in private life the numbers

to the 15,677 deaths recorded to the end of June, we add 790 deaths for July, and the 453 already known for August, we shall find a total amount of 16,920 deaths up to the 15th of August, an amount which will not fall far short of the one recorded in 1832, which was 18,556. It should, however, be noticed, that nearly three-quarters of the deaths in 1832-viz, 12,471 took place in one month (March), whilst in the present epidemic, the mortality has been very high in the months of April, May, and June, particularly the two latter.

It would seem that the disease is losing much of its intensity. On the 24th of August there were, in hospitals and asylums, 24 admissions, 14 deaths, and 13 recoveries. In town, the mortality has been 32 on the 19th of August, and 37 on the 20th. Disturbances which might have turned out extremely serious, took place at Rochefort. The cholera has been raging in that city for the last month, and suspicions as to poisoning and contagion were spreading among the lower classes. Medical men and Sisters of Charity were ill-treated, and received with abuse; groups formed in the principal thoroughfares vowing revenge, and placards were posted, threatening great havoc, if the cholera were not put down in twenty four hours. The authorities succeeded, however, with the assistance of the troops, in quelling the disturbances .- Lancet, September 1st, 1849.

Cholera in the Provinces of France .-The disease is still spreading in the provinces, and its ravages, says L'Union Médicale, is more terrible in certain places than even in Paris. At Clermont, Ferraud (Puy de Dôme), the disease suddenly broke out in the asylum for the insane, and there were, in a few days, no less than 150 cases and 70 deaths out of the 800 inmates. At Tours, the disease had for some time been on the decline, when on the 15th of July. the temperature being very high, and the wind in the east, the epidemic broke out on a sudden in the penitentiary, and its ravages were such as to bear some resemblance to the Tooting tragedy. Different servants of } the establishment and a great number of prisoners were attacked simultaneously, and } the deaths were so numerous that the solicitor-general released all those prisoners }

were, for men, 4242, and women, 4777. If The sick were transferred to the general hospital, and likewise to a shed temporarily erected in the Avenue de Grammont. Of those who were discharged, a large propor. tion were seized as they were leaving Tours. and were obliged to seek admission in the hospital; nine of them died soon after. In short, 47 prisoners out of the 80 who were confined in the penitentiary, have in a few days fallen victims to the cholera. The house is entirely abandoned, and all the windows and doors are wide open; the building is very favourably situated. Strange to say, there has been no increase of the disease in town, the reverse being rather We consider that such facts, the case. very lamentable in themselves, are, how. ever, well calculated to throw some light on the etiology of the terrible scourge.- Lancet, July 28th, 1849.

> Chloroform in Cholera. - Dr. JOHN DAVIES, of Hertford, in a communication in the Medical Times (Sept. 15th), states that he as well as some of his medical friends have used chloroform very extensively, both in the premonitory diarrhæa and the collapsed stage, with very extraordinary benefit. It should be given, mixed with mucilage, in doses of from five to fifteen minims every hour or two. One dose will very frequently stop the diarrhæa and sickness. The patient should drink plentifully of milk and cold water, with a little sesqui-carbonate of soda in it. The warm-bath, with a large quantity of common salt in it, frequently repeated, is a valuable auxiliary, but chloroform is the remedy.

The Wet-Sheet and Chloroform Practice in Cholera.-We have been informed that the wet-sheet practice has had a fair trial on the cholera patients admitted into the London Hospital; but although it had the effect of producing a genial warmth of the skin, and bringing about reaction, all the patients died. Chloroform was employed in five cases admitted into King's College Hospital, both in the form of vapour and internally as a liquid, but all the cases terminated fatally. Facts of this kind properly recorded will clear the way for improved treatment. If we cannot yet suggest any successful method of treatment, it is something to know what to avoid, by keepwhose regular discharge was near at hand. ing an honest record of those plans which

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have been fairly tried, and have been found to fail .- London Med. Gaz., August, 1849.

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MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Transactions of the American Medical Association .- The second volume of the Transactions was put to press immediately after the adjournment of the Association, and every effort has been made by the committee of publication for its early appearance. The default of authors, however, in not furnishing their reports, and the delay caused by the transmission of proofs to a distance, have baffled all the efforts of the committee. The reports have at last, all been received, and the printing will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible. It is believed that the volume will exceed 800 pages, of which about 550 have been printed.

Medical Convention of Ohio. - The Medical Convention of Ohio held its annual meeting at Columbus, commencing on the 5th of June, and terminating on the 7th. The following officers were elected: Dr. Pliny Crume, of Preble Co., President; Drs. E. H. Davis, of Ross, J. C. Norton, of Marion, C. Faueker, of Butler, E. Carney, of Delaware, and W. W. Rickey, of Sandusky Co., Vice Presidents; Drs. Norman Gay, of Franklin, and M. Thompson, of Knox Co., Secretaries; Dr. J. B. Thompson, of Franklin Co., Treasurer.

One hundred and nineteen members were in attendance, and we learn that entire harmony and good feeling prevailed during the deliberations of the convention. A number of valuable papers were read, and published with the proceedings .- Western Lancet, August, 1849.

Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois. -Dr. Thomas Spencer, late Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in Geneva Medical College, has been appointed to the same chair in this college.

St. Louis Medical Journal.—We ought before this to have stated that, during the recent conflagration at St. Louis, Mo., the printing office from which this Journal was issued was destroyed, and the work consequently has been temporarily suspended. It will be resumed again as soon as the the 7th of September, at Salisbury, N. H. necessary arrangements can be made.

Medical Department of the University of Louisville .- Dr. C. W. SHORT, the distinguished Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany in this school, has, we regret to learn, been induced, on account of enfeebled health, to resign his chair. trustees of the school have paid him the well-merited compliment of electing him Emeritus Professor of the branch he has long cultivated with so much success.

Dr. Lewis Rogers has been elected to the chair made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Short.

Twiggs County Medical Society - This the title of a Society recently organized at a meeting of the profession at Marion, Georgia. The following are the officers: President, Dr. R. A. Nash; Vice-President, Dr. Ira E. Dupree; Secretary, D. T. Jones; Treasurer, T. J. Johnson. next meeting of the Society was to be held on the second Tuesday of September, in Jeffersonville.

Medical Department of the Army .- A Medical Board for the examination of applicants for the appointment of assistant surgeons, will be convened in Philadelphia, on the 15th of October. Candidates, being between 21 and 28 years of age, should make their applications to the Secretary of War, accompanied with testimonials as to their moral character, physical qualifications, &c.

OBITUARY RECORD.—It is our painful office to record the loss which the profession has sustained during the last month, by the death of three of its most distinguished members.

AMARIAH BRIGHAM, M. D., the distinguished Superintendent and Physician to the New York State Lunatic Asylum, died of dysentery on the 9th of September, aged 51 years.

Dr. JOHN P. HARRISON, the eloquent Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical College of Ohio, died of cholera after a few hours illness on the 2d of September.

Dr. JOHN BUTTERFIELD, the talented Professor of Medicine in Starling Medical College, Ohio, fell a victim to consumption on

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Death from a Human Bite .- A policesergeant, in the exercise of his duty, was bitten by a drunkard on the first joint of the thumb of the right hand. He had previously enjoyed excellent health. The wound healed in seven or eight days. On the third day after, and at nearly the same period of the day, convulsions came on, beginning at the seat of the injury, as a numbness and stiff. ness. The convulsions were accompanied with loss of consciousness, being thus essentially epileptic. He was treated by bleeding and purgatives. With varying exacerbations and remissions, mostly of a few days, they recurred, and in about three months the patient died, apparently of exhaustion.

The main appearances were of purulent infiltration and softening of both hemispheres above the lateral ventricles. The membranes were thickened and vascular.

At a spot outside the skull, on the upper part of the occipital bone, the soft parts were thickened and infiltrated. The spinal cord was soft, but no clear evidences of disease beyond this. Nothing abnormal of note was found in the nerves of the limb, nor in the rest of the body.—Medical Times, Sept. 8, 1849, from Caspar's Wochenschrift.

Obliteration of Aneurisms and Varices.—Dr. Giuseppe, secondi of Milan, has proposed a new method of obliterating aneurisms and varices. He thrusts a trocar into the vessel, previously laid bare, if necessary, and on withdrawing the stilet, inserts a cylinder of waxed sponge through the canula into the vessel. The swelling of this and the coagulation of the blood effects the obliteration of the vessel.

The author states the advantages of the operation to be the ease of its performance, security against secondary hemorrhage, greater length and duration of the clot, and less secondary inflammation. In the case of veins, the advantage of a puncture over ligature and excision he regards as self-evident.

His experiments on animals are stated to support his conclusions.

But it may be doubted, whether any of these advantages obtain in reality; and the comparative immunity of animals from secondary inflammation renders it unwise to lay any stress on the results.—Ibid., from Schimdt's Jahrbucher.

Repulsive Force of Incandescent Sur. faces .- M. P. H. BOUTIGNY has lately proved that metals in a melted state have in a remarkable manner the repulsive force of incandescent surfaces, and that the tricks of fire eaters and conjurors belong to a high class of physical facts. He made the following experiments: He divided or cut with his hand a jet of melted metal of five centimetres, which escaped by the tap, Immediately he plunged the other hand into a pot filled with incandescent metal. Both hands came out of the ordeal unhurt. The precaution necessary to prevent the disorganizing action of the incandescent mass is to make the experiment with confidence; to pass the hand rapidly, but not too rapidly, in the metal in full fusion. The experiment succeeds perfectly when the skin is moist. and the dread usually felt at facing masses of fire supplies necessary moisture; but by taking some precaution we may become truly invulnerable. The following succeeds best: Rub the hands with soap, so as to give them a polished surface; then, at the instant of trying the experiment, dip the hands into a cold solution of sal-ammoniac saturated with sulphurous acid. The experiment has been tried by Boutigny with melted lead, bronze, and cast iron.-Med. Times, August 25th, 1849.

Development of Electricity by the Contraction of Muscles .- The experiment of M. Du Bois REYMOND, on the development of electricity by the voluntary contraction of the muscles, has been much discussed on the Continent. MM. Despretz, Becquerel, and Matteucci have not been successful in producing the effects which were stated to have been obtained by M. Reymond, and attested by M. de Humboldt. M. de Humboldt has addressed a second letter to M. Arago, stating that, at a new séance in the cabinet of M. Emile Du Bois Reymond, the effects produced by M. Mitscherlich were most unequivocal, and fully established the truth of this new fact. "Occupied myself," concludes Humboldt, "for more than half a century in this class of physiological researches, the discovery which I have announced has for me a vital interest. It is a phenomenon of life rendered sensible by a physical instrument."-Med. Times, August 25th, 1849.

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as follows-viz., they take a small portion of a nerve and extend it on a glass slide, manipulating so that the nerve-tubes appear separate, under a magnifying power of 350 or 400 diameters. Whilst the nerve is bewater, and then some drops of chloroform, of ether, or of essence of turpentine, are placed on it, and the whole is covered over with a piece of thin glass, and submitted to Then, somemicroscopic examination. times instantly, or after a longer or shorter interval (never more than twenty minutes), the primary nerve-tubes swell up, their contents become fluid, and currents, more or less rapid, take place in the whole length of the tubes, from the cut ends of which a fluid matter, charged with fat globules, may be seen to escape. These currents last a variable time, and, indeed, may be renewed after an arrest. If the experiment be continued, the tubes empty themselves, and their existence is then indicated by the two dark lines of their contour. This observation renders the tubular structure of the nerves, and the non communication of adjoining tubes, a matter of demonstration.-Lancet, Sept. 8th, 1849.

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Sweating Sickness in France.-In the Department of the Marne, the inhabitants are not only suffering from an epidemic of cholera, but also from a form of sweating sickness, unattended, however, with danger. It is characterized by excessive sweatings; by a strong, hard, but not frequent pulse, and by signs of gastric disorder. There is neither a white nor red eruption, except in a few rare cases. It mostly lasts three days, convalescence setting in on the fourth day. Ipecacuanha and purgatives have always succeeded in bringing about a speedy cure. Hot drinks have appeared harmless, and the exposing of the body, from throwing off the bed-clothes, &c., has seemed only to prolong the convalescence. The only danger attending this malady, follows, it would seem, on a too early administration of solid food; the least indigestion appearing to transfer the flux from the skin to the intestinal canal, and so to induce cholera, which may then prove fatal in twenty-four

Injection of the Nerves .- MM. Coze and tion is a constant feature, but diarrhora may MICHEL, of the Faculty of Medicine, of ensue on the decline of the disease, but Strasburg, believe they have succeeded in more frequently it precedes it; and between injecting the nerve-tubes. They proceed it and cholera an antagonism is supposed to subsist .- Lancet, July 28th, 1849.

Electro Magnetism of the Human Econo. my .- M. Dueros presented to the Academy of Sciences of Paris, July 9, 1849, a paper ing extended it is moistened with a drop of with the following title: "The impression of medicines and animal sensibility are transmitted to the cerebro-spinal axis by the influence of electro-magnetic currents, which are made evident by the deviation of the needle on the galvanometer, one of the extremities of the wires being placed on the forehead, the other on the nape of the neck." The paper closes with these conclusions: 1. Pricking, friction, or pinching the arms or legs, will cause the needle of the galvanometer to deviate almost instantly, when the extremities of the wires are placed on the forehead and nape. 2. This effect does not take place with individuals affected with melancholia, or with what has been called analgia, or absence of pain (we would rather say, inability to feel pain). 3. The impression produced by medicines is very often made apparent, by the almost instantaneous deviation of the needle when very strong or very sapid substances are used. 4. Camphor, assafetida, valerian, cerussa, snuff, and ammonia, produce very quickly greater or lesser deviations of the needle by their smell only. 5. The essence of peppermint and of the cherry laurel have the same effect, and act even more suddenly on the needle. 6. Brucine, strychnine, sulphuric ether, and disulphate of quinine, placed on the tongue, cause the needle to deviate immediately. 7. Enervating oils, such as those of valerian, &c., or empyreumatic oils, cause the needle to fall back, and return to zero. 8. The enervating effect produced by the aspiration of the latter oils is such, that, when once inhaled, frictions and pinching can no more bring on reaction in the needle than is noticed in analgia, or absence of pain in patients affected with melancholia. - Lancet, September 1, 1849.

Influence of Medicine in lowering Mortality.-Skeptical people will often express a doubt whether medicine has contributed to lower the mortality in places abundantly provided with medical men. Such doubts hours. In this sweating disorder constipa- will be at once allayed by a glance at the

show that in all those districts where medical men are very few, the deaths are much more numerous, and brought about by causes of a more uncertain character, than in the localities which have the assistance of a proper number of medical practitioners.—

Lancet, September 1st, 1849.

Clot Bey .- This distinguished surgeon has resigned his post of Inspector General of the Medical Department, and President of the Council of Health in Egypt, being about to retire to his native country (France). Abbas Pacha, the Viceroy, has issued a firman, designating Clot Bey as most honourable, skilful, and distinguished, and his most faithful friend. That in consideration of his services, the half of the annual income-16,000 francs-allowed Clot Bey, shall be retained by him for life; and that, if he should die before his three children attain their majority, one-fourth of the salary is to be allotted to them; and as a further testimony to his abilities, the Pacha confirms him in the post of brigadier-general, and presents the insignia of this appointment to him set in diamonds.-Lancet, July 28th, 1849.

Removal of Stains of Nitrate of Silver.—Accident first led M. Martinenq to the observation, which he has since repeatedly confirmed, that the stains produced by nitrate of silver on linen, &c., may be readily removed by wetting the linen in a solution of bichloride of mercury (1 part to 31), rubbing it well, and then washing it in cold water.—British and Foreign Medico-Chirug. Rev., July, 1849.

Baptism before Birth.—Dr. Salomon, of Hildesheim, narrates a strange case. The child of a Roman Catholic was half delivered, only the head and arm remaining in the uterus, when the midwife asked and obtained permission to baptize, on account of the danger of its death. Instead of the necessary few drops, she suddenly dashed a handful of cold water on the child's posteriors. It moved violently, excited a strong uterine contraction, and was expelled dead; all endeavours at resuscitation were fruitless. The story forms an argument against baptism by injection, which even Mr. Shandy

never anticipated; much less the doctors of the Sorbonne, whom he quotes.—Ibid.

University College, London.—Dr. Walshe has been appointed Professor of the Practice of Medicine; Dr. Parkes, of Clinical Medicine; Dr. Wm. Jenner, of Pathological Anatomy; and Dr. W. B. Carpenter, of Medical Jurisprudence.

Diseases of California.—The diseases most common in California are fever, leprosy, and dysentery. The yellow fever is unknown; but intermittents are very common, the natural result of the ground being under water during four months of the year, the quantity of rain that falls, the great heat of the climate, and the intense fogs. Emetics and large doses of quinine are the usual modes of treatment. Leprosy is a very common disease in all the warm regions of America. Dysentery is the most fatal disease of the country, and caused, it is said, by the general use of fruits. Generally speaking, the climate is good; and, with temperate habits and prudence, any serious malady may be avoided.

New Works.—Messrs. Lea & Blanchard have nearly ready for publication, a Treatise on the Diseases of the Bones, by E. Stanly, Esq.; a new edition of Colombat on the Diseases of Females, translated by Dr. C. D. Meigs; a Treatise on Cod-liver Oil, by Jongh; and a Treatise on the Diseases of Infants and Children, by Dr. Churchill.

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OBITUARY RECORD.—Died, on the 4th of August, of valvular disease of the heart, Sir Charles Scudamore, well known by his "Treatise on the Nature and Cure of Rheumatism and Tic Douloureux," and other works.

— Of cholera, on the 22d of August, Charles Ashton Key, Esqr., Senior Surgeon to Guy's Hospital. Mr. Key was deservedly known as a most scientific surgeon and successful practitioner.

Of rupture of the aorta, on the 28th of July, in the 68th year of his age, John Goldwer Andrews, one of the Surgeons of the London Hospital, and a member of the council and court of examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons.